Amendments to the Abstract

Please amend the abstract at page 36 as follows:

When an instruction for still image recording is input, input digital image data is stored as still-image data in a still image frame memory. A still-image recording control circuit changes over a switch so as to input the ~~still-image~~ data from the still image frame memory to a compression encoder circuit for a predetermined time period ~~of time~~, where the same still-image frames are continuously encoded. The ~~still-image recording~~ control circuit further controls a motion compensation prediction circuit so that motion compensation deliberately is not performed for still image recording to suppress the occurrence of motion vectors. The ~~still-image recording~~ control circuit also controls a quantization circuit ~~so as~~ to perform coding with a smaller quantization step for still image recording than for motion picture recording. ~~In this manner, high-quality~~ High-quality still image recording can be carried out even when the same coding scheme is used for both still image ~~recording~~ and motion picture recording.